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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/581,592	06/05/2006	Hiroyuki Togashi	NNA-106-B	3598
48980	7590	08/12/2009	EXAMINER	
YOUNG BASILE			SCHARICH, MARC A	
3001 WEST BIG BEAVER ROAD				
SUITE 624			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
TROY, MI 48084			3611	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/12/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@youngbasile.com  
audit@youngbasile.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/581,592	TOGASHI ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	MARC A. SCHARICH	3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/1/2009.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-13 and 20-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) 1-7 and 14-19 is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 6/5/2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/5/2006</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Applicant's election *without traverse* of claims 1-7 and 14-19 in the reply filed on 4/1/2009 is acknowledged.

### *Ex parte Quayle*

2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

#### **Claim 1**

Line 4: "a vehicle" should be -- the vehicle --

Line 8: "left and right wheel" should be -- left and right wheels --

#### **Claim 2**

Line 2: "left and right wheel" should be -- left and right wheels --

#### **Claim 3**

Line 2: "the highest acceleration" should be -- a highest acceleration --

#### **Claim 4**

Line 2: "its crankshaft extending in the lateral direction" should be -- a crankshaft extending in a lateral direction --

Line 7: "differential" should be -- differential gear --

#### **Claim 5**

Line 1: "where in" should be -- wherein --

**Claim 15**

Lines 2-3: “a preset acceleration” should be -- a predetermined rate of acceleration --

**Claim 16**

Line 2: “the highest acceleration” should be -- a highest acceleration --

**Claim 17**

Line 2: “its crankshaft extending in the lateral direction” should be -- a crankshaft extending in a lateral direction --

Line 4: “driving source” should be -- driving means --

**Claim 18**

Line 1: “where in” should be -- wherein --

Line 4: “the outer joints” should be -- the left and right outer joints --

**\*\* Additionally, non-elected claims 8-13 and 20-33 should be canceled by Applicant. \*\***

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213, (Comm'r Pat. 1935).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

***Reasons for Allowance***

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

**Claims 1-7 and 14-19** are allowable due to independent claims 1 and 14 reciting *at least*: apparatus for suppressing torque steering in a vehicle having left and right wheels, a left drive shaft coupled to the left wheel via a left outer joint to define a left tilt angle, a right drive shaft coupled to the right wheel via a right outer joint to define a right tilt angle, a driving (means) source [*i.e. engine*] that is adapted to accelerate the vehicle, and wherein as the acceleration from the driving (means) source increases, the left and right tilt angles decrease. It appears that prior art fails to disclose or teach a front wheel drive configuration (as claimed) that is capable of functioning to reduce torque steering in a vehicle by reducing a drive shaft tilt angle as a function of increasing vehicle acceleration.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARC A. SCHARICH whose telephone number is (571) 272-3244. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.A.S. - 7/30/2009

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Patent Examiner  
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